

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Health Services Council**  
**Project Review Committee-II**

**DATE: 7 October 2004**

**TIME: 3:00 PM**

**LOCATION: Health Policy Forum**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee II: Present: Victoria Almeida (Vice Chair), Catherine E. Graziano, Robert J. Quigley (Chair), DC, Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire**

**Not Present: Raymond C. Coia, James Daley, Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Wallace Gernt, Maria R. Gil, Denise Panichas**

**Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter**

**Public: (see attached)**

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. Minutes of the 19 and 26 August 2004 Project Review Committee - II meetings were approved**

**as submitted. Staff noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict.**

## **2. General Order of Business**

**The first item on the agenda was the application of Option Care, Inc. and Option Care Enterprise, Inc. for initial licensure of an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility at 50 Maude Street in Providence. Staff summarized the application.**

**Ms. Marcoccio, proposed administrator for the facility, introduced Dr. Weitberg, proposed Medical Director, Ms. Taylor (nursing), and Mr. Davey (pharmacy). She passed out materials and made a presentation to the Committee as follows:**

- o The applicant has experience in providing infusion services to patients' in their place of residence.**
- o The proposed facility, an ambulatory infusion center ("AIC"), would offer infusion services to patients who are not home bound and offer services that require oversight.**
- o Option Care, Inc. ("Option Care") offers high volume ambulatory infusion services for different diagnosis.**
- o Mission - to provide patients with the highest quality of home care and specialty pharmaceuticals through national pharmacy and distribution network.**
- o Vision - that each local office is going to be part of the national**

health care service organized and dedicated to meet the local customer needs and providing quality services.

o With Option Care's services, if there is a patient that can't make it to the AIC they can be treated at home depending on the diagnosis and the disease progress.

To the question regarding 24/7 availability, Ms. Marcoccio stated that the proposed facility would have an on-call computerized system. Staff inquired if there is sharing between Option Care's home nursing care agency and the proposed agency of personnel and medical information. Ms. Marcoccio stated that there isn't any presently. Staff inquired if the on-call nurse, that would go to the home of a patient if there is a problem at night, would be an employee of the proposed facility. Ms. Marcoccio answered yes.

Staff inquired if patients would be able to go back and forth between receiving services from either the applicant's home nursing care agency or the proposed AIC, depending on their capability. Ms. Marcoccio stated that if a patient is unable to come to the proposed facility, depending on the diagnosis, the home infusion service would be able to service them.

The Chairman inquired as to where the pharmacist would be located and how the medicine would be provided to the proposed facility. Ms. Marcoccio stated that the medicine would be delivered to the proposed facility. She stated that the application identifies the

proposed facility employing a driver and a pharmacist technician. She noted that the technician would mix the drug with pharmacist's oversight. She stated that the pharmacist technician would be located at another facility on Amaral Street. Staff noted that the applicant has a licensed pharmacy and asked whether all of the mixing and compounding of the medicine would be done there. Ms. Marcoccio stated yes.

Mr. Ross inquired as to why people would prefer visiting the proposed AIC versus their physician's office. Ms. Marcoccio stated that some of the injectables are during chemotherapy or oncology regime, in conjunction with the regime. Mr. Ross inquired what services would majority of the patient require. Ms. Marcoccio stated that the plan is to speak to physicians that might want to give antibiotic therapy which needs to be done in a controlled setting, and physician in specialties like pulmonary GI, infectious diseases and neurology.

The Chairman requested that the applicant provide a detailed description of the Medical Director's responsibilities. Ms. Marcoccio stated that the Medical Director would be assisting with policy and procedure review, medication, oversight, nursing questions, and taking a look at patients that qualify.

Mr. Weitberg, the proposed Medical Director, stated that if a patient is undergoing chemotherapy at oncologist's office or in a hospital, and

a problem occurs at night and the patients calls their doctor, that doctor might not have seen the patient. He stated that in terms of quality of care and patient satisfaction, AICs are more patient oriented because a patient has contact with a physician, a nurse and a pharmacist.

Ms. Graziano inquired as to the relationship between the Medical Director and the patient's physician. Dr. Weitberg stated that there would be contact regarding the diagnosis and appropriateness of the treatment, on an ongoing basis. Staff requested that the applicant verify that the Medical Director position would be a full FTE position for \$25,000. The Chairman requested that applicant provide a statement with regards to the responsibilities of the Medical Director, the nursing director and the pharmacist.

To the question of how a patient would be evaluated, Dr. Weitberg stated that he would be present at the proposed facility when the patient comes in and oversee what's appropriate. He stated that there are no other AICs in the state.

Staff noted that the proposed facility would be leasing space on the campus of Roger Williams Medical Center. Rev. Shire requested that the applicant provide a letter of support from the hospital regarding this proposed facility, which the applicant agreed to provide. Mr. Ross requested that the applicant identify how many patients would require follow up care after-hours.

**The Chairman inquired as to the cost of providing services at an AIC compare to those of at a hospital. Ms. Marcoccio stated that it is less expensive because there is no overhead like at the hospital and the patient pays for the nurse and the medicine.**

**To the question regarding accreditation, the applicant stated that the proposed facility would seek JACHO accreditation.**

**The Chairman inquired if the proposed location for the facility has been approved by the Office of Facilities Regulation as adequate. Staff stated that an advisory has been requested regarding this application. Staff noted that the applicant should provide confirmation that this particular location is of the proper size and has all the components.**

**Staff requested that a person who can represent the company at the corporate level be in attendance at the next meeting. The Chairman requested that the applicant identify the chain of command, with all the contact information, for those individuals who can make a decision.**

**The next item on the agenda was the application of Specialty Personnel Services, Inc. for initial licensure of a Home Care Provider Agency at 790 Charles Street in Providence. Staff summarized the**

**application.**

**The applicant stated that it currently provides supplemental help to hospitals. To the question if the applicant has a homecare license in other states, the answer was no. To the question regarding a Nursing Supervisor, the applicant stated it is in negotiations with Ms. Mello.**

**Ms. Mello stated she is a registered nurse and described her home health experience. Staff requested that the proposed owner, Mr. Pane, be in attendance at the next meeting. Rev. Shire inquired as to who would be on the applicant's professional advisory committee. Ms. Mello stated that there would be a physician, executives within the community and consumers involved in looking at policies and quality. Rev. Shire inquired as to the opportunities for staff to participate, and receive further education. Ms. Mello stated that there would be a Q & I committee, with on-going monthly meetings with staff participation. In terms of education, she stated that as part of Q & I there would be monthly deliveries to staff of educational programs, minimum of 12 a year. Rev. Shire requested that the applicant provide more details regarding the continuing of education.**

**Staff noted that the proposed facility would have a payor mix of 89% Medicaid, and inquired how the applicant plans on acquiring such referrals. Ms. Mello stated that the applicant would work with caseworkers from Department of Human Services, in addition to PR**

**work with hospitals and private sector.**

**The Chairman inquired if the applicant felt confident regarding being able to staff the proposed facility, to which the answer was yes.**

**Ms. Mello stated that in her background in home health care, she worked in long-term care facility as a Director of Nurses, and working in home care at Care New England.**

**Ms. Almeida requested that Mr. Pane be present and that a more detailed resume be provided for him.**

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Valentina D. Adamova**